

**VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2024
Early Childhood School Auditorium/Boardroom
953 High Street
Victor, New York 14564**

CALL TO ORDER President Tim DeLucia 6:18 PM.

Members Present Bryan Adams, Tim DeLucia, Lisa Kostecki, Elizabeth Mitchell, Christopher Parks (arrived at 7:35 PM), Carol Prescott, Adam Snyder

EXECUTIVE SESSION A motion was made by E. Mitchell, seconded by C. Prescott, to enter executive session at 6:18 PM to discuss a student discipline appeal as well as the employment history of specific individuals.
The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

REGULAR SESSION A motion was made by B. Adams, seconded by L. Kostecki, to return to regular session at 7:01 PM.
The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE APPEAL OF A STUDENT DISCIPLINARY MATTER:

The following motion was made by E. Mitchell, seconded by C. Prescott:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Victor Central School District (the “Board”) received a written appeal from a student disciplinary matter arising under the District’s Code of Conduct Policy; and **WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the matter in executive session, to protect the privacy of a student’s education records and personally identifiable information under Federal and State Law, pursuant to a motion made and approved under Public Officers Law §108(3) during the regular business meeting of the Board on December 12, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that having reviewed the paperwork and due deliberation having been had, the appeal is denied, and the decisions of the building administration and the Superintendent of Schools are affirmed.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education, or the District Clerk as designee of the President, is hereby authorized to prepare a letter consistent with this Resolution and with the deliberations in Executive Session to be prepared, signed and mailed to the appellant; and to include in that letter language appropriate to inform the appellant of the time and manner in which an aggrieved party may file an appeal of this decision with the New York State Commissioner of Education;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A roll call vote was taken. T. DeLucia – appeal denied, B. Adams – appeal denied, L. Kostecki – appeal denied, E. Mitchell – appeal denied, C. Prescott – appeal denied, A. Snyder – appeal denied. The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

APPROVE AGENDA: A motion was made by E. Mitchell, seconded by L. Kostecki, to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: Mr. DeLucia introduced Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Duey Weimer who started out by recognizing the Unified Bowling Team. He introduced head coach Johanna Arnitz. Coach Arnitz started out by thanking the Board of Education for showcasing

the Victor Unified Bowling Team. They are the Section V Far East Champions. She said they are a comprehensive team of 26 students representing athletes from a variety of programs in grades 9-12. Coach Arnitz said each athlete and partner contributed to the successful season not only with pin totals but with laughter, secrete handshakes and celebration dances. She then read the names of the athletes and partners and thanked them for a memorable season. The students were presented with certificates acknowledging their accomplishments.

Mr. Weimer then went on to introduce Girls' Swimming Coach Brett Leader. Coach Leader spoke about 2024 Section V Class A 200 Yard Freestyle and 100 Yard Butterfly Champion Meredith Hogan. He said she has been on the Varsity Swim Team for 5 seasons. During that time, she has had an amazing career and had earned many awards and honors. She has been an 8-time Section V Class A Champion, a 4-time Individual New York State Championship Qualifier and a 13-time New York State Finalist. Coach Leader said she went undefeated in dual meet races during her senior season taking two more sectional titles. The Monroe County coaches named her Swimmer of the Year and the Class A coaches voted her Swimmer of the Meet. Coach Leader said her accomplishments in the pool are many, but he will always remember her for giving a competitive boost at the time when the team needed it most with enough energy and positivity for the entire team. He said he is grateful for the legacy Meredith will leave with the program. She was presented with a certificate recognizing her accomplishments.

Board President DeLucia introduced Music Teachers Gretchen Judge, Kristin Mellema and Laura Brewer who presented the New York State School Music Association All-State Recognitions. They started out by recognizing students who participated in the NYSSMA Conference All-State. Ms. Judge said these students were selected through a rigorous solo evaluation and were ranked among the best in New York State. They spent last weekend practicing in Rochester and performing at the Eastman Theatre with top students from New York. She said they were additionally recognized last week by Spectrum News. Ms. Judge then went on to recognize the students who were selected for the Junior and Senior High Area All-State. These students went through a similar audition round as the Conference All-State students. They were rigorously evaluated on a solo performance as well as on scales and site reading. They scored among the best in the greater Rochester area. She said they spent a weekend rehearsing and performing with other selected students from this part of New York State. All students were presented with certificates acknowledging their accomplishments.

Mr. DeLucia went on to introduce Senior High School Fall Play Director and Senior High English Teacher Jeremy Hawkinson who spoke about the performance of *Snow Angel*. Mr. Hawkinson said they started in September with 16 scripts at a table and put together a wonderful and touching production. He said the cast and crew have gotten back a lot of great feedback. He went on to introduce those in attendance. He thanked the staff for their help with the production behind the scenes, for Principal Siesto for supporting the theatre program, Superintendent Terranova and the Board of Education for the continued recognition. Each cast and crew member were given a certificate acknowledging their accomplishments.

Mr. DeLucia introduced Junior High School Musical Director and Senior High English Teacher LeeAnne Birkemeier who spoke about the performance of the *Addams Family* musical. Mrs. Birkemeier thanked Dr. Terranova and the Board of Education for supporting the music program and the recognition. She also extended her gratitude to the entire production team, the volunteers, and the parents. She said it was quite an undertaking with just about 100 students involved in the cast, crew and orchestra. There was a huge ensemble cast that involved teamwork, commitment and dedication. Mrs. Birkemeier said it is the best learning experience Junior High kids can have. Each student was presented with a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment.

Board President DeLucia said he is always impressed at the talent they have at Victor Central Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE: Superintendent Terranova congratulated all the students who were recognized. He said it is an illustration of a comprehensive school district that values kids. He then provided an advocacy update, which is being led by the Board of Education. Dr. Terranova said one of the major sources of revenue is Foundation Aid. The state is redoing the formula for the Foundation Aid a year after our District was finally able to get 100% of the previous formula granted. The Board is sending a message to state legislators that we need at least inflationary increases in the Foundation Aid over the next several years so the District can successfully support the existing staff and the needs we have in our unique community, which has grown over the past 20 years. The other advocacy point is around zero emission bussing. Dr. Terranova said we are all fans of sustaining the environment and doing things appropriately, however the state has created a potential process that could cost the state billions of dollars and the Victor Central School District millions of dollars by having an electric bus initiative where the District would have to shift completely over to electric buses in the next 12-13 years. He said thanks to the leadership of the Board, Dr. Terranova has approved a study of the District’s own transportation system through a company called Polaris, which will take a deep dive into the District’s bussing needs and the cost of switching over 80 buses to electric buses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None at this time

CONSENT ITEMS: A motion was made by C. Parks, seconded by L. Kostecki, to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following consent items:

MINUTES: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Treasurer’s Report for the month ending October 31, 2024

PERSONNEL: *All appointments on these pages are made in compliance with New York State Education Law relating to criminal history background clearances for new employees. Conditional clearances under that law have been requested for all new employees.*

Instructional

**Probationary
Appointments:**

The probationary appointment of **Maeve Robillard**, who will have certification as a Teacher Assistant by March 31, 2025, to a probationary position as a Teacher Assistant, effective December 16, 2024, at an annual salary of \$27,923, which will be prorated based on her start date, leading towards tenure as a Teacher Assistant.

The probationary appointment of **Tyler Mounnarat**, who has pending certifications in Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 and Mathematics Grades 7-12, to a probationary position as a Special Education Teacher, effective December 16, 2024, at an annual salary of \$46,726, which will be prorated based on his start date, leading towards tenure in Special Education.

Tenure Appointments: The appointment to tenure of **Nichole Swansfeger**, who is certified in Childhood Education Grades 1-6, Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6, Students with Disabilities Birth-Grade 2, and Early Childhood Education Birth-Grade 2, upon the successful completion of her probationary period as a Special Education Teacher, effective January 2, 2025.

The appointment to tenure of **Jennifer Grimes**, who is certified in English to Speakers of Other Languages and as a School Building Leader, upon the successful completion of her probationary period as an Assistant Principal, effective December 12, 2024.

Long Term Substitute Appointments: The appointment of **Christin Crossing**, who has pending certifications in Early Childhood Education Birth-Grade 2 and Students with Disabilities Birth-Grade 2, to a long term substitute position as an Elementary Teacher, effective September 23, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, at an annual salary of \$46,726, which will be prorated based on the length of the assignment.

Resignations: The resignation, due to retirement, of **Anne Stekl**, Foreign Language Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

The resignation, due to retirement, of **Michele Linse**, Library Media Specialist, effective June 30, 2025.

Per Diem Substitutes:	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Area of Certification</u>
	Dylan Pryce	Uncertified
	James Andre	Physical Education
	Hannah Weeden	Uncertified
	William Straub	Music
	Zachary Birkemeier	Uncertified

Non-Instructional Appointments:

The appointment of **Katheryn Sheridan**, from Substitute Food Service Helper to Part Time Food Service Helper, effective December 2, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Joshua Bonilla Medina**, Full Time Cleaner, effective November 18, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.28.

The appointment of **Armando Bandres**, Part Time Cleaner, effective November 15, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.54.

The appointment of **Oglamilca Adams**, Account Clerk/Typist, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$20.20.

The appointment of **Paul Paddock**, from Substitute Cleaner to Part Time Cleaner, effective November 25, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$16.95.

The appointment of **Heather Firkowski**, Part Time Teacher Aide, effective November 20, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Linda Casazza**, Part Time Teacher Aide, effective December 11, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Allison Brundage**, Part Time School Bus Monitor, effective November 18, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Jessica Shoemaker**, Part Time School Bus Monitor, effective November 12, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Leanne Goldblatt**, Full Time Teacher Aide, effective December 9, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$15.55.

The appointment of **Kathryn Selleck**, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools/District Clerk, effective January 6, 2025, at an annual rate of \$71,500, which will be prorated based on her start date.

Resignations:

The resignation of **Alessio Giacobone**, School Bus Driver, effective November 15, 2024.

The resignation, due to retirement, of **Linda Buwalda**, School Bus Driver, effective January 10, 2025.

The resignation of **Michelle Palazzo**, Part Time Teacher Aide, effective November 25, 2024.

The resignation of **Kathryn Selleck**, Claims Auditor, effective January 5, 2025.

**Per Diem and
Substitute Positions:**

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mackenzie Hoad	Lifeguard
Giana Huff	Lifeguard
Natalie Crossing	Lifeguard
Linda Buwalda	School Bus Driver
Emma DeRoller	Teacher Aide
Michelle Palazzo	Teacher Aide
Emma Koch	Lifeguard
Elizabeth Ricci	Lifeguard
Ellise Valdes	Lifeguard
Christopher Raimondi	School Bus Driver Trainee/ School Bus Monitor
Daniel Kirsch	Lifeguard

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS: Recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from the meetings of October 30, 31, 2024, November 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 2024, December 2, 4, 2024 and from the Committee on Preschool Special Education from the meetings of October 18, 25, 2024, November 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 2024 and December 10, 2024.

DONATIONS: \$1,250.00 from the Victor Cheerleaders Boosters Association to the Victor Central School District to be applied toward the custom music mix for the winter 2025-2025 competitive cheerleading season and \$20.00 from Tops Market to the Victor Central School District to support the Junior High Musical. Dr. Parks thanked the Cheerleading Boosters and Tops Market for their donations.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT BID: Award the Transportation Contract Bid to Transpo Bus Services, LLC as the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications.

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT: The Victor Central School Tax Collector's Report for the 2024-2025 school year as submitted.

SURPLUS: Declare the following as surplus: 150 copies of *All's Fair in Middle School* text with ISBN #9780525429999.

BOND RESOLUTION: The attached Bond Resolution of Victor Central School District, New York, adopted December 12, 2024, authorizing the construction of improvements and alterations to various District buildings and sites; stating the estimated total cost thereof is \$99,419,031, appropriating said amount therefor, including the expenditure of \$28,431,861 from various District Capital Reserve Funds; and authorizing the issuance of \$70,987,170 serial bonds of said District to finance the balance of said appropriation.

The motion to accept the foregoing consent items was carried.

7 yes 0 no 0 abstentions *(end of consent items)*

CAMPUS NEWS: VCS administrators summarized campus news and events.

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL; Data Systems and Algorithms (DSA): PreK-12 Director of Math and Science Carrie Goodell started out by saying it is a unique course proposal as it's not a course proposal being added into a department that has an extensive course catalogue. It is the first step of a growth action plan that was developed with the Computer Science Program Review. The action plan will enhance the current program into a unique and cutting edge academic pathway that prepares students for experiences in a professional field that advances every day. She thanked Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Karen Finter, Senior High Principal Brian Siesto, Superintendent Terranova, and the Board of Education, along with the members of the program review, for supporting the vision. Mrs. Goodell shared a special thanks to Mathematics and Computer Science Teacher Chris Wuest who has been a great partner in the work. His passion and pride in the program has a lasting impact on the students. Mr. Wuest then shared the rationale and the intended instructional focus for the new course. He said technology is not going away, it is only getting bigger. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that "Computer Science related jobs are expected to increase by 25% over the next 10 years." Mr. Wuest said about 60% of the students who have gone through his program are in the field. He said in 2012 he had 16 students in his classroom. There are now at 120 students not including freshman. He said it is beyond due and for the students who won't end up going into computer science it helps students think, how to deconstruct a problem and make them more successful thinkers in the future. Mr. Wuest then provided an overview of where they have been and where they hope to go. Right now, the District has Computer Science 1 and 2

for 10th, 11th and 12th graders. AP Computer Science is for students who have successfully completed Computer Science 1 and 2. If a student has completed the full cycle there is an opportunity to go into Independent Study. Mr. Wuest said last year he had 12 students doing Independent Study. Data Systems and Algorithms focuses on the study of arrays, array lists, tree and graph structures, nested data structures, objects, classes, inheritance, interfaces, object-oriented collection class libraries for abstract data types. Students will develop problem solving capabilities by expanding understanding of algorithms and data structures. Course experiences will better prepare students for college and/or post-secondary Computer Science studies. Mr. Wuest said the long-term goal is to make it a Gemini or a co-seated course. Mrs. Prescott said they appreciate everything Mr. Wuest has done for the Computer Science Department at the Senior High School. She said he inspires kids in so many ways. She said this is something that is needed because students would get through the first levels and then get to their senior year and have nothing. Mrs. Mitchell asked Mr. Wuest to walk the Board through what his course load would be in a semester. Mrs. KostECKI said the most exciting part of this is being able to open this up to younger students and expand the program.

COURSE APPROVAL: A motion was made by E. Mitchell, seconded by C. Prescott, to approve the Data Systems and Algorithms (DSA) course. The motion carried. 7 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT; Review the 2025-2026 Budget Rollover-Expenses Only: Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business Richard Stutzman provided the Board of Education with a rollover budget update for the 2025-2026 school year. He started out by reviewing the goals of the budget. The goals are to enhance a comprehensive education the VCS community expects, improve the alignment of resources toward the District's Strategic Plan, maintain the stabilization of Reserves, maximize the use of every dollar spent, maximize the ability to generate aid for future years, and transparency. Mr. Stutzman said in the four years he was gone from Victor what the District did with the Capital Reserves is wonderful. He said a rollover budget is the cost to maintain existing staffing levels with contractual changes from the 2024-2025 school year to the 2025-2026 school year. It does not have any adjustments made to any non-personnel related items such as tuition, supplies and materials, contractual expenses, or equipment. It also does not include any retirements. The rollover budget helps the District to understand the revenue needed to balance the 2025-2026 budget. Mr. Stutzman then went over the numbers in the rollover budget. There will be an increase in teachers' salaries who are in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This is based on a contractual requirement. The increase will be nearly \$1.35 million or 3.7%. For those that are in the Employee Retirement System (ERS), these are the support people in the District, based on contractual obligations there will be an increase of \$565,000 or 4%. Mr. Stutzman said the fringe benefits is where it gets scary. From the 2024-2025 school year to the 2025-2026 school year there is an increase in a little over \$3 million or a 10.29% increase. The total personnel budget is a little over \$80 million currently which would increase to a little over \$85 million. The rollover budget is nearly a \$5 million increase or 6.19%. He said a year ago it was 6.72%. With regards to other expenditures and these include equipment, contractual/tuition, supplies, library books, software, textbooks, BOCES, and debt service will basically remain flat for the 2025-2026 school year for now. Mr. Stutzman said he knows that will not be true as there will be cost increases. The personnel rollover budget is an increase of 6.19% and the non-personnel items are at (0.010%). The current budget is at \$103,224,919 and the rollover budget as it stands right now is at \$108,169,543 for an increase of \$4,944,624 or an increase of 4.79%. A year ago, the rollover budget was 4.34%. There are three budgetary considerations that have volatility that need to be considered and they are varying interest rates on investments, changes to the Teacher Retirement System (10%) and Employee Retirement System contribution rates (16%), and health insurance premiums are increasing 15%. Mr. Stutzman said due to recent interest rates, the District has experienced year-end surpluses that have resulted in increased reserves. He said it was the stimulus money and the interest that helped the District finance the Capital Project. Pension contributions are a percentage of salaries and are based on how the pension funds are performing. These rates can shift

dramatically, so there is potential for sharp increases and decreases in pension costs. Mr. Stutzman then went over the next steps. He said he will be meeting with departments and buildings to review the non-personnel budgetary needs. The Assistant Superintendent for Personnel will meet with departments and buildings to discuss personnel budgetary needs. Mr. Stutzman said he will then calculate the costs of the requests and present them to the District Cabinet, who will then review and prioritize the needs as they try to close the gap between the expenditures and the revenues. Once the District starts to receive revenue information, the Governor's proposal comes out towards the end of January, the District will have a better concept of budgetary parameters. Mr. Stutzman said the one unknown is what the Governor will do with Foundation Aid. The hope is she will at least come out with inflationary increases, which would be a little over 3%. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Board of Education twice a month for the next three months, with a final budget recommendation to be adopted by the Board of Education at the April 10, 2025 meeting.

MANAGEMENT PLAN; Special Education Update: Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services Karyn Ryan, the Director of Special Education PreK-6 Amanda Tripp and the Director of Special Education 7-12 Shannon Markin-McMurtrie highlighted the special education data related to the classification rate and graduation rate for the cohort 2023-2024 as well as data for the current students for the 2024-2025 school year, the department goals and the connection of the department goals. Mrs. Ryan started out by talking about the District's graduation rate for the 2023-2024 cohort for all students. This graduation rate was 96.4%. For students with disabilities the graduation rate was 77.8%. The state's target rate for students with disabilities is 75%. Mrs. Ryan said prior to COVID the average graduation rate for students with disabilities in Victor was 55%. There has been a fluctuation in the graduation rate over the last three years which can be contributed to a combination of factors around COVID and the states temporary exemptions around Regents Exams. She said the Special Education Department will continue to build upon a focused effort to ensure consistent graduation improvement for students with disabilities and also for other students in at risk populations. Mrs. Ryan said in the 2023-2024 school year there were 560 students who received special education services, with a classification rate of 14%. The state's average classification rate is 19%. The implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) has a significant impact on special education by promoting early intervention and enhancing individualized supports for students. MTSS emphasizes the importance of identifying students who are struggling early on. Mrs. Ryan then went on to talk about New York State Indicator 5. Indicator 5 emphasizes the rights of students with disabilities to be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). It tracks the extent in which students with disabilities are included in the general education setting. She said they are highlighting this indicator because during the 2024-2025 school year and through the next school year the New York State Education Department is moving away from a compliance-based measure to a performance-based measure. Right now, the state frames LRE as the fundamental right to receive special education supports in a classroom and setting with, to the maximum extent appropriate, general education peers. Only when a student's education cannot be achieved due to the nature or severity of the disability, should placements in a special class or a special school be recommended. Mrs. Ryan said in Victor there is a culture of collaboration and a strength-based approach that is fostered. Educators, students, and parents/guardians work together to create a learning environment where every student can thrive and reach their fullest potential in the LRE. Ms. Markin-McMurtrie talked about the Special Education Department placing a large emphasis on the goal of strengthening knowledge around research based instructional practices. These practices have a direct correlation on supporting students in the LRE both academically and socially/emotionally. She said this year they have built capacity on specialized reading, Integrated Co-Taught (ICT) practices, backward planning through the lens of differentiation, and implementing a viable curriculum within the highly specialized programs. She then went on to talk about the backward planning process. Teachers are engaged in the backward planning process to ensure students have access to the core curriculum and grade level standards through the lens of differentiation. Teachers

are planning with related service providers to coordinate instruction across settings to access the core curriculum. Teachers with the specialized programs are backward planning utilizing the TEACH model. Ms. Markin-McMurtrie said when visiting classrooms the evidence of the work is in the instructional practices, which include active participation of all students, students providing evidence of their own thinking, productive struggles in challenging concepts that build students up rather than preventing them from doing their own learning, and classroom communities where students are treated with respect and dignity. Mrs. Tripp talked about another area of focus for the Special Education Department, which is around strengthening teams to use a consistent multi-tiered problem-solving approach. During conversations the multi-disciplinary team considers the significance of the LRE and the impact on the students. LRE is not only a requirement of the state is also a belief and philosophy of the District and the Special Education Department. Mrs. Tripp then talked about how discussions are framed through the problem-solving process. She said teams are engaged in data meetings to support high level problem solving for students. Teams are engaged in cohort progress monitoring meetings for students within grades 9-12. Teachers on Special Assignments (TOSAs) collaborate with teams to support the implementation of best practices to support student growth. Evidence of the work can be seen through clearly targeted goals, aligned supports and resources, progress that is defined and measured in professional development along with being aligned with areas of need. Mrs. Tripp talked about a Special Education Department area of focus aligned with clear, consistent, and transparent communication systems to all members of the department. This goal is directly related to feedback from the department from the annual survey, follow-up focus groups, and refinement with the teacher leaders. The focus on supporting clear communication in the department has been framed around increasing consistent messaging K-12 through weekly communications. Also, a Special Education Dashboard has been created to house resources, professional development offerings, Committee on Special Education practices and forms. Mrs. Tripp said they are deepening their connections with parents/guardians, which started in the summer by providing each parent with an information packet tailored to their child's services and supports. Coffee hours are hosted by the Directors of Special Education, differentiated parent night offerings have taken place along with presentations and collaborating with the parent groups to support parent needs. She said a survey was sent this fall to the parents to gain insights on what resources they would like. Mrs. Tripp said the Special Education Department will foster strong partnerships with all stakeholders, including the out-of-district programs, consultants, and specialized support services. Ms. Markin-McMurtire talked about the work that can be celebrated and the work they are still focusing on. Board President DeLucia thanked them for the presentation as it was very informative.

APPROVE TRIPS: A motion was made by E. Mitchell, seconded by L. KostECKI, to approve the following trips: Senior Trip to Boston, MA from 3/20/2025 – 3/22/2025; Victor Indoor Percussion Ensemble (VIPE) to Toms River, NJ from 3/21/2025 – 3/23/2025 to participate in the WGI East Regional Championship; DECA to Orlando, Florida from 4/26/2025 – 4/30/2025 to participate in the International Career Development Conference. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

POLICY REVIEW: First Reading of Policy 8131, Weapons in School and the Gun-Free Schools Act. Mrs. Mitchell asked for clarification around the paragraph, “Students with disabilities continue to be entitled to all rights set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Education Law Article 89. This policy does not authorize suspension of students with disabilities in violation of those authorities.” Dr. Terranova said if a student with disabilities had a weapon in school the same procedure would be followed as with a general education student. The only difference would be if they went to a Superintendent's Hearing for a long-term suspension and they were found guilty in the hearing they then go into a Manifestation Meeting to decide whether the child's disability had a significant impact on the actual event. That would determine whether the suspension would be continued, or another placement would take place. Mrs. Mitchell then asked for clarification around the paragraph, “This policy also does

not diminish the authority of the Board to offer courses in instruction in the safe use of firearms in accordance with education Law Section 809-a.” Dr. Terranova said we don’t do this, however according to the law the District could. It does not prohibit some type of work around the safety of firearms. He said no course can be approved without Board of Education approval.

MEETING REPORTS:

Monroe County School Board Association Committee Reports: Mrs. Kostecki talked about the two MCSBA Advocacy Meetings she attended on Monday, December 9th with State Senators and Assemblymember representatives. There were five main topics that were discussed with all of them including Foundation Aid, zero-emission buses, the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, safety and security including emotional and mental health services and staff shortages. MCSBA prepared talking points there was some good feedback and questions along with guidance on different things Boards of Education could do including attending the Legislative Breakfast that is happening on February 1st at Shadow Lake. She said they were good meetings, and the legislators were very engaged.

Standing Committee Updates: Mrs. Mitchell said her current work district, where she teaches, has created an Advocacy Committee being composed of Board of Education representatives, district administrative leadership, association and teacher leadership, other teachers, PTSA, community members including business owners and others that are not affiliated with her work district. They have several initiatives underway that include a form letter campaign for staff and community members that is a pre-written letter to legislators that include several of the talking points Mrs. Kostecki mentioned along with several talking points specific to her work district. Mrs. Mitchell said she wondered if it might be something the Victor Board of Education might consider, in conjunction with District leadership, creating a broad coalition around advocacy as they enter the budget. She feels it’s important to talk about it now as after the first of the year things start to ramp up. She feels it is a way for the District community, along with the larger Victor-Farmington community, to rally behind the kids and staff because it is known this could potentially be a complicated budget cycle. Community members and family members have rallied behind the District before and it might be a way to organize and get some clear things in place in order to contact legislators as they enter their budget cycle. Mrs. Kostecki said she does like the idea. She said the District saw what happens when the community is engaged in the most recent Capital Project. There was a huge turnout and a ton of support and something like an Advocacy Committee could help with the budget cycle. President DeLucia said he thinks it’s a great idea and he would support it. His question is how do they do it? Mrs. Kostecki said, and how quickly can they do it? Dr. Terranova said there is a Board Sub-Committee that is an Advocacy Committee. Mr. DeLucia said there are two Board members on the committee, the Board President and Board Vice-President. Elizabeth said she would be interested in sitting on the sub-committee. Mr. DeLucia said with Mrs. Mitchell’s guidance and leadership they could facilitate the process. How they reach out to staff members and other community members they would have to meet and think about. Mr. DeLucia said they could start out with Mrs. Kostecki, Mrs. Mitchell and himself meeting. If others are interested in that sub-committee someone could drop out and another could join. Mrs. Mitchell said if the group was interested in the idea, she was hoping they could meet next week prior to one of the meetings with the legislators. Mr. DeLucia said the other way to meet would be having a workshop where everyone could be included. Mrs. Mitchell said they only reason she would say maybe not would be because time is of the essence with organizing the group. District Clerk Maureen Goodberlet reminded the Board they also have their Board Retreat on Tuesday, December 17th. She said she knows it is a full agenda, however if it ended early or if Board members could stay for an additional 30 minutes or so they could meet then as they would already be together. The Board thought that was a good idea. They would start discussing it at the retreat and if there is more that needs to be discussed then Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Kostecki and Mr. DeLucia could meet before one of the meetings with the legislators. Mrs. Mitchell said it would be helpful that Amy Thomas from Monroe County School Boards Association will be at the retreat as well as she could give them some insight. Dr. Parks said his

only question was going to be, why wouldn't the Board do this. When we have engaged the community, they move mountains. The idea is great is only suggestion would like to see the student voice represented as well. Dr. Parks said if the Board has ideas about talking points it would be helpful to email them to the entire Board prior to the workshop to help guide that discussion.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The next regular Board meeting will take place on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:15 PM in the Early Childhood School Auditorium. There will be a Budget Workshop on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Boardroom

ADJOURN: A motion was made by A. Snyder, seconded by E. Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no 0 abstentions

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Goodberlet
District Clerk